

REMARKS

Examiner's comments in the Office Action marked "FINAL" and dated July 19, 2007 have been read and carefully considered by Applicants. In view of such comments, Applicants have amended the set of claims in the present Application as set forth hereinabove. In particular, independent claims 1, 12, and 21 and also dependent claims 2, 3, 7-11, 16-20, and 22-29 have all been amended to better highlight the patentable differences of Applicants' proposed invention as compared to the prior art cited by Examiner in the Office Action. In amending these claims, Applicants maintain that no new matter has been impermissibly introduced into the present Application. Claims 4-6 and 13-15 were previously cancelled. Since no claims have been altogether newly cancelled and no entirely new claims have been added herein by Applicants, claims 1-3, 7-12, and 16-29 thus remain pending in Applicants' present Application for Examiner's consideration.

At the present time, it is Applicants' good faith belief that the pending claims, as presented herein, are both novel and non-obvious in view of all known prior art and that the claims properly comply with all applicable statutory requirements. Therefore, Applicants respectfully aver that the pending claims now place the present Application in a condition for allowance and notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Specification:

Also, in the present Amendment, Applicants have amended original paragraphs 0008-0010, 0021, 0028, 0031, 0032, and 0038 of the written specification in the Application. (See amended paragraphs set forth hereinabove.) In general, these paragraphs in the specification have largely been amended so as to merely correct obvious typographical errors, word omissions, and/or grammatical errors that were present in the Application as originally filed. Therefore, in making such amendments to the specification, Applicants again respectfully maintain that no new matter has been impermissibly added to the present Application.

Rejections of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

In the Office Action, Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7-9, 12-14, 16-18, 21, 22, and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being rendered obvious, and therefore unpatentable, by United States Patent Number 5,979,581, which was issued to Bahram Ravani *et al.* on November 9, 1999 (hereinafter "Ravani"), in view of United States Patent Number 6,205,391, which was issued to Youssef Ghoneim *et al.* on March 20, 2001 ("Ghoneim"). Also, in the Office Action, Examiner rejected claims 11, 12, 19, 20, 23, 24, 28, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being rendered obvious, and therefore unpatentable, by Ravani in view of Ghoneim and in further view of United States Patent Number 5,373,911, which was issued to Yoshiyuki Yasui on December 20, 1994 ("Yasui"). Furthermore, in the Office Action, Examiner rejected claims 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being rendered obvious, and therefore unpatentable, by Ravani in view of Ghoneim and in further view of Japanese Patent Application Publication Number 07-320188, which was published for Nagaoka Mitsuru *et al.* on December 8, 1995 ("Mitsuru").

In response, Applicants have amended all claims 1-3, 7-12, and 16-29 as set forth hereinabove. In view of the claims as amended herein and also remarks set forth both herein and in previously submitted Amendments, Applicants now respectfully traverse the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections set forth in the Office Action and request that the rejections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

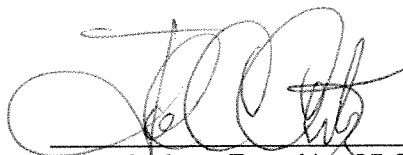
In view of the claims as amended and also the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-3, 7-12, and 16-29 are both novel and non-obvious with respect to the disclosures and teachings of Ravani, Ghoneim, Yasui, and Mitsuru and that the claims now properly comply with all statutory requirements. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner's claim rejections in the Office Action be withdrawn and that a Notice of Allowance be issued for all claims 1-3, 7-12, and 16-29.

Also, together with this Amendment, a "Request for Continued Examination" (RCE) is being submitted along with an appropriate fee.

Should Examiner have any questions with respect to any matter now of record, Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

DICKINSON WRIGHT PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John A. Artz', is written over a horizontal line.

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